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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GROMYKO RECOVERING

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO TOLD AMBASSADOR TOON ON MARCH 1 THAT, CONTRARY TO RUMORS CIRCULATING IN THE DIPLO-MATIC CORPS, FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO HAD NOT SUFFERED A STROKE. KORNIYENKO SAID GROMYKO HAD BEEN ILL BUT WILL RETURN TO WORK BY THE END OF THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK AT THE LATEST. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 2810 (EXDIS), 3/1.)

2. SEELYE GETS MIXED RECEPTION IN ETHIOPIA

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PAGE 02 STATE 045910

CHARGE TIENKEN REPORTS FROM ADDIS ABABA THAT DEPUTY ASSIST-ANT SECRETARY SEELYE'S FEBRUARY 23-26 VISIT TO ETHIOPIA PROVIDED US WITH MIXED SIGNALS. ON THE ONE HAND, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GETACHEW TOLD SEELYE THAT ETHIOPIA "VALUES HIGHLY" ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USG. ON THE OTHER, PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU CHOSE NOT TO RECEIVE SEELYE. (CONFIDEN-TIAL) ADDIS ABABA 1209 (LIMDIS), 2/28.)

3. KHARTOUM TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

EMBASSY KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT THE ONLY TANGIBLE RESULT OF PRESIDENTS ASAD, SADAT AND NIMEIRI'S KHARTOUM SUMMIT WAS THE INCORPORATION OF THE SUDAN INTO THE SYRO-EGYPTIAN UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND. NO ONE, INCLUDING SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS, SEEMS TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF THE PURPOSES OF THE SUMMIT.

DESPITE THE PROMINENCE GIVEN STANDARD MIDEAST ISSUES IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE THE LIBYAN THREAT, PROBLEMS IN THE HORN, AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. ON BALANCE, THE SUMMIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE, BUT AS ONE ARAB DIPLOMAT REMARKED, THIS IS IMPORTANT IN THE ARAB WORLD. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 704, 3/1.)

4. CARAMANLIS WARNS OF TURKISH EXPANSIONISM

IN A MARCH 1 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS REITERATED HIS CONCERN OVER TURKISH EXPANSIONISM. CHALLENGED ON THIS POINT BY THE AMBASSADOR, CARAMANLIS SAID TURKISH "PROVOCATIONS," INCLUDED:

--CLAIMS TO THE AEGEAN SHELF AREA AND THE SAILING OF THE SISMIR;

--DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A MEDIAN DIVIDING LINE OVER
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PAGE 03 STATE 045910

AEGEAN AIRSPACE, A MOVE WHICH WOULD PUT 500 GREEK ISLANDS AND 300,000 GREEK CITIZENS UNDER TURKISH AIRSPACE;

--ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "ARMY OF THE AEGEAN," DESIGNED FOR AMPHIBIOUS ATTACK ON GREEK ISLANDS; AND

--AGITATION OVER THE ISSUE OF 120,000 TURKS WHO LIVE IN GREEK WESTERN THRACE.

CARAMANLIS SAID A GOOD CLIMATE NOW EXISTS FOR THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO DEAL WITH THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA. THERE MUST BE A NEW APPROACH FROM WASHINGTON, SINCE RECENT LINES OF POLICY HAD SIMPLY NOT WORKED. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 1896 (EXDIS), 3/1.)

5. THAW IN SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS?

EMBASSY STOCKHOLM REPORTS THAT TWO EVENTS OF POTENTIALLY

HISTORIC IMPORTANCE HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LAST WEEK WHICH MAY SIGNAL AN END TO THE 40 YEAR FREEZE IN SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS:

--SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SODER, IN A FEBRUARY 23 SPEECH IN STOCKHOLM, PRAISED CURRENT SPANISH EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THE COUNTRY INTO A DEMOCRACY.

--SWEDEN'S HIGHEST-RANKING CAREER DIPLOMAT, SVERKER ASTROM, DEPARTED FEBRUARY 27 FOR TALKS IN MADRID COVERING THE ENTIRE RANGE OF SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES CAREFULLY POINT OUT THAT THE ROAD TO CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS IS STILL A LONG ONE, AND BOUND TO BE INTERRUPTED SHOULD SPAIN DELAY ITS EVOLUTION TOWARD DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 045910

THAT THE DOOR TO BETTER RELATIONS COULD START TO CREAK OPEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) STOCKHOLM 881, 2/28.)

6. PERU: ARMS AND POLITICS DON'T MIX

IN AN ANALYSIS OF PRESENT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN PERU, EMBASSY LIMA AGREES WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT SOVIET ARMS SALES HAVE NOT LED TO GREATLY INCREASED LEVERAGE. IN FACT, PERU HAS TURNED BACK TOWARD THE POLITICAL CENTER DURING THE PAST YEAR, AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF MOVEMENT TO THE LEFT.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE AIMING AT LONG-TERM POLITICAL GOALS THROUGH ARMS SALES, HOPING TO INDOCTRINATE JUNIOR AND FIELD-GRADE OFFICERS WHO MAY RISE TO POSITIONS OF POWER LATER ON. PERUVIAN CONCERN ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY WAS REVEALED IN JULY 1976, WHEN THE REMOVAL OF LEFTIST PRIME MINISTER JORGE FERNANDEZ MALDONDO SPARKED SOME RESISTANCE BY A NUMBER OF MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 1585, 2/28 AND 727, 1/27 AND MOSCOW 2381, 2/19.)

7. DID OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SKEWER PEREZ?

EMBASSY CARACAS REPORTS THAT VENEZUELA'S RESUMEN MAGAZINE HAS PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE SUGGESTING THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM WAS BEHIND THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY LINKING PRESIDENT PEREZ TO ALLEGED CIA PAYMENTS. THE ARTICLE, WHICH PURPORTEDLY QUOTES HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES IN THE STATE

DEPARTMENT AND AT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, ASSERTS THAT THE COMPANY FABRICATED THE ALLEGATIONS TO DISCREDIT AND DESTA-

BILIZE THE PEREZ REGIME. RESUMEN ALSO CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMES REPORTER DAVID BINDER, IN WHICH BINDER APOLOGIZES FOR THE ARTICLE AND ADMITS THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PEREZ AND WILLY BRANDT WERE NOT THOROUGHLY CHECKED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 05 STATE 045910

EMBASSY COMMENT: LOCAL OCCIDENTAL REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS BULLOS HAS DENIED THAT THE COMPANY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TIMES ARTICLE. WHATEVER THE ACCURACY OF THE RESUMEN STORY, ITS PROBABLE EFFECT WILL BE TO PREJUDICE FURTHER POLITICAL OPINION AGAINST OCCIDENTAL IN VENEZUELA.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CARACAS 2091, 2/28.)
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